Testæ osseæ mensura.

	ped.	unc.	lin.
Longitudo dorsi	1	5	0
Latitudo ejusdem	0	11	0
Altitudo	0	8	5
Longitudo sterni	1	3	0

It is surprising that a species of Tortoise at once so beautiful and of so large a size, inhabiting, too, a region so much frequented by travellers, should have so long remained unknown to naturalists. The first specimen noticed was one which I kept alive for about a year and a half; it had in the summer months the range of a small orchard, where it fed heartily on grass, which it appeared to prefer to any other food, and which it plucked with a sidelong movement of the head, exactly similar to that of a goose. The neck was so remarkably long and extensile, that the head could be easily raised much above the level of the top of the back, and thus the animal was enabled to look round on all sides, merely by turning the head; a peculiarity which I have never observed in any other species. After its death I opened it, and found it filled with an immense number of eggs, of all sizes from that of a pin's head to that of a pigeon's egg. There was no appearance of shell even on the largest, and they were probably not a third of their full size. I believe there could not be less than two hundred in all.

This is the largest known species of land Tortoise, excepting *Testudo indica*, which it very much resembles in general form, and even in the details of the plates. Besides the great difference in the colour, however, the areolæ of the costal plates in the present species are placed close to the upper margin, whilst in *T. indica* they are central.

I am inclined to believe that Seba's figure, referred to in the list of synonyms, and copied by Shaw under the name of *Testudo elegans*, may be the very young of this species.